



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE:
RICHMOND DRUG USER PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Richmond, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally possessing five firearms. The guilty plea, Graves said, is the result of work completed by NITRO (the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation).

Leonard Wayne Coggins, 42, of Richmond, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this afternoon to the charge contained in a March 3, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Coggins** admitted that he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of five firearms on Sept. 13, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any addict or unlawful user of a controlled substance to possess any firearm or ammunition. **Coggins** admitted that he was an unlawful user of methamphetamine and marijuana when he possessed a Marlin .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, a Sears, Roebuck and Company 20-gauge shotgun, a Remington .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, a Springfield Armory 7.72 mm semi-automatic rifle and a Charter Arms .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, along with various ammunition for the firearms.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Coggins** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. The case was investigated by the North Central Drug Task Force, the Ray County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Ray County, Mo., Prosecutor's Office and NITRO, the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow